

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009, 6:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School Committee met on Monday, February 23, 2009, at 6:30 PM at the High School Library. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, Mrs. Cusick, and Student Representatives Merielle Paul and Michal-lynn Folsom.

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hoeg, Mrs. Sheehan, Memorial Park Principal; Mr. Sangster, High School Principal; Mrs. Mark, Mrs. Bissonnette, Mrs. Killinger, Mrs. Fallon, and Mrs. Walsh, Memorial Park teachers, and citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV were present in the audience.

Mr. Norris introduced Student Representatives Merielle Paul and Michal-lynn Folsom and noted that Mr. Mills was not present due to a conflict with ROTC training.

On motion of Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the minutes of the meeting of February 9, 2009, were accepted.

The Superintendent announced that Mr. Scarpelli has received MCPPO status from the Inspector General. The Superintendent and Mr. Scarpelli are now both procurement officers for the school district. It was noted that Mrs. Cann, Guidance Director, will retire in October. Two candidates from the outside and two from the inside will be interviewed for the position within the next two weeks. Mr. Retchless reported on a meeting with Ednets, a fund raising web based company that is being used in the Weymouth Public Schools. The Committee agreed to have Ednets make a presentation at a future meeting. The Superintendent also announced that Curriculum Corner in the future will have a new look. Segments will be filmed at the specific schools and shown at the School Committee meetings. The public will be able to see the various activities directly from the school setting.

On four separate motions by Mr. Mullen, seconds by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous, the following January Financial Reports were accepted:

- 1) School Department
- 2) High School Student Activities
- 3) Middle School Student Activities
- 4) Cafeteria

Mrs. Sheehan introduced second grade teachers, Mrs. Killinger, Mrs. Bissonnette, and Mrs. Mark, who explained the writing projects that students have been creating. Several students read their essays and it was noted that they are producing work that was previously done at the fourth grade level. Mrs. Fallon introduced several fifth grade students who displayed their advertising posters that were done in connection with the study of early explorers. Mr. Retchless stated the importance of writing in the curriculum and also the engagement of the students to the subject matter.

Mr. Scarpelli reported that the FY09 Budget is on target even with the \$100,000 cut as a result of the Governor's 9C cuts and that all areas are being monitored carefully.

Mrs. Werkheiser reported that the next meeting of the School Building Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:00 PM. The feasibility study has been signed by the MSBA. The MSBA architect standard contract with the fee schedule is being reviewed by Dore & Whittier. Upon completion of this phase of the project, the architect will begin the design of the school.

Superintendent Retchless announced that the State mandated that all Food Service Management Contracts be terminated this year. As a result, the district went out to bid for three one year contracts. Chartwells, Aramark, and Whitsons submitted proposals. After careful examination by the technical and cost proposal committees, it was voted to recommend Chartwells to the School Committee. On the motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous, it was voted to approve Chartwells as the Food Service Management company. Mr. Norris commended Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser, for their efforts on behalf of the program.

On the motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to award the three year Special Education School Van Bid to Capital Lease Group.

After a general discussion with regard to the proposal to institute a fee for processing high school transcripts, it was voted to approve a \$5 fee for graduates of Rockland High School effective immediately. Motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous. On the motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to table the proposal for a fee for current seniors until a later meeting. Mrs. Cann will present surrounding town's fees and further research into the subject.

On three separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, permission to advertise the following bids was granted:

- 1) Driver Education
- 2) Instrument Rental Program
- 3) Sale of Refreshments

The motion included amending the Sale of Refreshment Bid by adding the wrestling games and deleting the phrase "no soda or caffeine product."

Mr. Norris introduced Mr. Walter Hoeg who, once again, has donated \$400 to the High School Wrestling Team. It was noted that Mr. Hoeg has, over the past twenty year, donated over ten thousand dollars to the wrestling team. Mr. Hoeg reported that the Wrestling Team had three wrestlers go to the State Finals and seventeen seniors will be graduating. Mr. Hoeg noted the wonderful work that is done by Coaches Cullinan and Brown. On the motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to accept the donation and to send a thank you letter to Mr. Hoeg.

Superintendent Retchless gave an overview of the reinstatement of the high school store, a project spearheaded by Mr. Dressler. On the motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous, it was voted to accept a \$5,000 donation from the Rockland Federal Credit Union and a refrigerator, freezer, and shelving from Tedeschi's and to send both companies a thank you letter.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve an out-of-state ski field trip to Bretton Woods, NH. Motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the proposed fund raiser for the Memorial Park School PAC. Motion by Mrs. Werkheiser, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

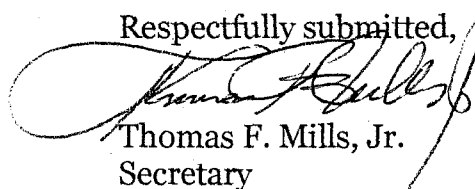
On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the proposed fund raiser for the Jefferson School Grade 5 students. Motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mrs. Werkheiser, unanimous.

The Superintendent reviewed personnel information for January and February highlighting the retirement of Mrs. Janet Cann, Guidance Director in October and the appointment of Mr. James Flanagan as Assistant Student Government Advisor

Mrs. Werkheiser announced the Rockland High School Hockey team's participation in a tournament to be held on February 24, 2009. The Rockland Athletic Boosters joined the Hockey Boosters for a fundraiser for the hockey team. Mrs. Werkheiser stated that Brendan Hurley, hockey captain's grandfather died recently and memorial donations can be made in his name to the high school hockey boosters. It was noted that the varsity girl's basketball team will be playing on February 26, 2009. Mr. Mullen announced that the Lion's Club recently held a meat raffle for Alex Smith, a student from the Middle School, who has leukemia and another fundraiser at the Eagle's that will be held soon.

On the motion by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary